Reducing import duty on steel

*166. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to cut down the import duty on steel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it would not adversely affect the interests of indigenous steel producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Any step to change the existing rates would be taken at an appropriate time keeping in view the interests of both the steel manufacturers and the steel consumers.

Recommendations on wildlife

*167. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) at what stage is the implementation of the recommendations on wildlife consequent to the construction of the Rengali Irrigation Project in Orissa pending;

(b) the details of the recommendations; and

(c) how much money has remained unutilised on this head and the interest that has accrued on the principal by non-action on the wildlife points?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The environmental and forestry clearances for the Rengali Irrigation Project in Orissa were accorded by the Government on 4.12.1996 and 14.5.2003 respectively. The recommendations relevant to wildlife are as under:-

(i) Crossing points for wild elephants will be provided in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost.